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John Stark

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EXAMINER

WEINSTEIN, LEONARD J

ART UNIT

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

The examiner informed the applicant that after review of the specification the incorporation of the limitations of claim 16 in claim 9 and the subject matter of the first full paragraph on page 11 of the instant specification would distinguish over the prior art cited. The examiner specifically referred to the disclosure of "no drastic change in flow profile as feed flow 310 moves from orifice 308 to exit cone 304. This improved flow profile leads to the a significant reduction in the noise level. Further the improved flow profile reduces wear and tear of the device." US App. 10/561317, pg. 11, line 9-16. The examiner drew the distinction from the prior art of Frenzl US 3,823,872 which teaches fluid that is in contact with the walls but not permitted to form a boundary layer because a gas introduced into a nozzle forms a boundary layer. Frenzl teaches that the gas boundary layer reduces wear on the walls. The examiner asserted that instant invention was different from Frenzl because the instant invention keeps fluid in contact with walls while at the same time reducing wear on them, due in part to a drastic change in flow profile being prevented. The applicant stated the proposed amendment would be considered.

The applicant sought to draw a distinction between devices where noise is not generated and devices where noise is generated but muffled. The examiner noted that the limitations claim a double-cone device, encompassing all the claimed elements it precedes in claim 9. The proposed amendment was directed toward a double-cone device reducing the generation of noise in total. The limitation would not be limited to a specific feature of the device interacting in a specific manner with fluid during a specific part of general operation. Placing a muffler on a prior art device that reduced the noise heard during the device's operation would therefore reduce noise generation of the device. The examiner did not draw the conclusion that this limitation was patentably distinct.

The applicant raised the point that the continuous geometry maintaining fluid flow in contact with the walls of the double cone device provided the specific benefit of reducing the generation of noise. The applicant explained that the continuous geometry results in less noise to be muffled, and the addition of a porous section with holes in the range of 50 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$  does not diminish the ability of the continuous geometry to reduce generation of noise. Potential language for an amendment generally directed toward this feature was discussed but a specific limitation was not formally presented.

The examiner agreed that the applicant could present a new claim including the limitations of claim 9 and the examiner's proposed amendment as discussed above in a Request for Continued Examination, as well as the applicant's proposed amendment to claim 9 directed towards the reduction of noise generation.